

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-16 and 23-29 without prejudice and amend claims 17, 19 and 21.

1.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the concentration of at least one analyte in a physiological sample, said method comprising:

(a) applying said physiological sample to a test strip comprising a plurality of reaction zones, wherein each of said reaction zones is defined by a hydrophobic barrier, ~~and a reagent composition is present within each of said reaction zones~~ and at least one fluid channel for delivering the physiological sample to at least one of said plurality of reaction zones wherein said at least one fluid channel defined by said hydrophobic barrier;

(b) detecting a signal produced by the reaction of said reagent composition with said physiological sample; and

(c) relating said detected signal to the amount of said at least one analyte in said physiological sample.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said hydrophobic barrier comprises hydrophobic ink.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising directing said physiological sample along a said at least one fluid channel to each of said reaction zones.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said hydrophobic barrier is applied using thermal transfer technology.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said method comprises employing a meter to perform said detecting and said relating.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said sample is not absorbed or not substantially absorbed by said hydrophobic barrier.

23.-29. (Cancelled)